



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-3828)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-3619)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence and self-introduction of all present.

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Jenny Kimbell and Roy Sinclair. (14-3845)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the August 13, 2014 Minutes. (14-3620)

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representative Reports for August 20, 2014.

- Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)
- Monthly Report

- Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Monthly Report

- Internal Services Department (ISD)
- Monthly Report

- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Monthly Report

- Probation Department (PD)
- Monthly Report

- Sheriff's Department
- Monthly Report (14-3621)

Department of Auditor Controller (AC)

There was no representative present to report.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Ms. Zoe Trachetenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that DMH is working collaboratively with DCFS to launch the "Trial and Family Teams" (TFT) program. In addition, she reported that the TFT program provides support to families that have children living in group homes, as well as improve the services that the children receive in group homes. The main focus of the program is on the discharge plan for the youth whether they are returning to their families or going to a lower level of care. She concluded by reporting that the TFT program is state mandated as part of the Katie A. V Bonta case settlement, which ensures that foster youth in the California have improved access to mental health care.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

There was no representative present to report.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Korliss Robinson, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the period of July 2014 there were a total of 802 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 30 referrals in the following categories:

- 8 General Neglect
- 9 Physical Abuse
- 12 Sexual Abuse
- 1 Severe Neglect

During the same reporting period, 19 referrals were closed in the following categories:

- 1 Emotional Abuse
- 5 General Neglect
- 8 Physical Abuse
- 5 Sexual Abuse

Ms. Robinson further reported that the following group home was placed on hold:

- Little People World

Ms. Rhonda David Shirley, DCFS, Out of Home Care Management Division, Group Home Performance Management, reported a follow up on two raised by the Commission at the July Business meeting. Regarding the use of plastic furniture in the group homes, she reported that group homes can use plastic dresser drawers as furniture as long as they are adequately built and are fit for use. She also discussed the over the counter medications being administered to the youth and will provide additional clarification to the Commission. Documentation of medications being administered to the youth is required.

Ms. Rhonda David Shirley and Ms. Korliss Robinson responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Probation Department (PD)

Mr. Javier Rodriguez, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, PD, reported on behalf of Mr. Mike Varela stated that youth on youth violence at Dorothy Kirby Camp has declined.

He also reported on PD's Multi Discipline Team (MDT), which provides orientation to youth that are placed at Dorothy Kirby Camp within 10 days of placement. The MDT also provides after care support to youth transitioning back to their families, communities and schools by connecting them with community based organizations for support and services. Mr. Rodriguez concluded by reporting that the renovation of the Dorothy Kirby Camp cottages will begin in the next several months and there has been no AWOLs over the past two years.

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of July 2014 as follows:

There were 145 AWOLs

- 124 youth involved
 - 45 Remain AWOL
 - 56 Returned to group homes
 - 21 Youth AWOL more than once
 - 12 Were placed in Juvenile Hall
 - 10 Were Camp Community Placement
 - 1 Was sent home on Supervised Placement

Ms. Pease also reported that there were no group homes placed on hold during the month of July 2014 and provided the Commission with a detailed report of the status on group home monitoring, investigations and statistical findings regarding AWOLs. In addition, Ms. Pease reported that Children Are Our Future was placed on hold in August 2014.

The Commissioners held a discussion and expressed their concerns regarding the lack of cooperation and communication by the owner of Children Are Our Future and requested that Ms. Pease follow up on the Commission's concerns.

Ms. Pease agreed to follow up on the Commissioner's concerns regarding Children Are Our Future and will report back to the Commission at the September 2014 Business meeting.

Commissioner Grills asked PD to review the trends/data of children who AWOL and have not returned to group homes; and the possibility that they may be victims of kidnapping or sex trafficking.

Ms. Pease stated that she would contact Ms. Michelle Diamond of PD to gauge her availability to address the Commission at the September or October 2014 Business meeting.

Sheriff Department (LACSD)

Commander Samuel Dacus, LACSD, stated that he did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Burton expressed her interest to be informed of the measures that are being discussed to ensure safe voter access in the upcoming November 2014 voter registration and election process.

Commander Dacus stated that he would forward the Commissioner's request to Commander Ornelas for response.

- 3. Chairperson's Report on various items for August 20, 2014. (14-3622)**

There was no Chairperson's report presented.

- 4. Treasurer's Report for August 20, 2014. (14-3623)**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,415.15.

- 5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for August 20, 2014. (14-3624)**

Staff reported that 2014 Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship honoree Christian E. Moran was contacted regarding the disbursement of his scholarship check.

- 6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on August 20, 2014. (14-3625)**

In Compliance:

Vice Chairperson Bacio visited:

- Luvlee's Residential Care "New Dawn Emancipation" (Walnut Valley drive, Walnut, CA.), on August 14, 2014.**

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- **Five Acres "Solita Group Home" (Solita Road, Pasadena, CA.), on August 15, 2014 and reported that the bedrooms were messy with clothes everywhere.**

Not In Compliance:

Chairperson Montañó and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- **Children Are Our Future "Kezios" (Keswick Street, Canoga Park, CA), on August 18, 2014 and reported the following:**
 - **The group home staff was not well informed on operating procedures and unorganized**
 - **The Needs and Services Plans were outdated**
 - **The dishwasher was not working properly**
 - **All the bedrooms need painting and multiple rooms need floor repairs due to safety hazards.**

Commission Services staff was directed to forward copies of the report to the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Children and Family Services.

7. **Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from August 14, 2014 to August 19, 2014. (14-3626)**

There were no Group Home Inspection Reports.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. **Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-3627)**

Public Comment

9. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-3628)**

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of August 20, 2014. (14-3629)

There being no further business, the meeting of August 20, 2014 Business meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.